Progress of Ganga Action Plan

*295. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made so far in implementation of the Ganga Action Plan, phase-wise, indicating the cost involved therein, so far;

(b) whether, despite implementation of this plan, Ganga waters continue to be polluted with industrial and other wastes; if so, how far;

(c) by when cleansing of Ganga waters is likely to be completed, as per the plan; and

(d) at which stage the action plans for cleansing various other major rivers in the country stand at present?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Under the Ganga Action Plan, Phase-I approved in June' 85, out of 261 sanctioned schemes, 254 schemes have been completed so far at a cost of Rs. 450 crores. The Ganga Action Plan, Phase-II was approved during the period April, 1993 to October, 1996. The Phase II project cost is Rs. 1328.32 crores and expenditure is Rs. 300 crores. Under this plan, out of 184 schemes sanctioned so far, 32 schemes have been completed.

(b) Under Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, intervention measures were taken up in 25 class I towns where the total municipal sewage generated in 1985 was 1340 mld per day. Out of this, 873 mld of domestic waste water was targeted for interception, diversion and treatment and till date capacity has been created to treat 728 mld of waste water. The remaining would be tackled with the commissioning of the balance schemes. Under the ongoing Ganga Action Plan, Phase-II about 1780 mld of waste water is targeted for interception, diversion and treatment. With regard to industrial wastes, 68 grossly polluting industries were originally identified for immediate control during Ganga Action Plan Phase I out of which 45 are operating their effluent treatment plants satisfactorily and 23 have been closed down. Subsequently, some more industries numbering 119 were identified as grossly polluting in nature and their status of compliance reviewed by the Central Pollution Control Board. Of these 36 units are now complying with the prescribed standards while 4 units have been closed down. Follow up action is being pursued against the remaining 79 industrial units.

(c) The Ganga Action Plan, Phase-II is likely to be completed by the year 2001.

(d) In addition to Ganga Action Plan, Phase I & II, pollution abatement works have been taken up along 18 other major rivers covering 10 States under National River Conservation Plan approved at a cost of Rs. 772 crores in July 1995. An expenditure of Rs. 59 crores has been incurred. Out of 150 schemes sanctioned so far, 18 schemes have been completed.

Contamination of Yamuna by adulterated mustard oil

*296 SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the spread of Dropsy epidemic in Delhi and areas around it, the stockists and traders of mustard oil disposed of the oil into the Yamuna river, contaminating the river water; and

(b) what hygenic and environment friendly means were adopted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Delhi Jal Board are regularly monitoring the quality of water in river Yamuna. Following the recent dropsy epidemic in Delhi, no